

From the Director



The NOAA Coastal Services Center links people with the technology, information, and expertise needed to ensure the sustainable use of our nation's coastal ecosystems.

While the topography from state to state may vary, many of the issues facing coastal resource managers are the same.

The challenges of increasing development, erosion, making the best use of volunteers, and data management are facts of the business for most of us. Resource managers must also learn to maximize new technology, deal with failing septic systems, handle exotic species and curb non-point source pollution, and it all must be done in an often-changing political climate.

Obviously, there is a lot we can learn from each other. *Coastal Services* wants to be a catalyst for this information exchange. Our goal is to become the trade publication for the coastal resource management community, the place where coastal managers can share ideas about what does and does not work in the field of coastal resource management.

Several articles in this issue focus on beach access. We look at a new program in Massachusetts that uses mediation and free legal aid to help people reach a consensus on beach access issues.

Michigan is working hard to make their beaches more accessible to the disabled. New vinyl docks get wheelchair-bound citizens to the hard sand beach.

In Oregon, we explore and applaud the historical dedication to access this state has shown. Policies created in the late 1800s continue to protect against many unwise development trends.

We look with pride and satisfaction at Georgia's joining the ranks of federally authorized coastal zone management programs. In January, Georgia became the 32nd state or territory to participate in the program.

While the NOAA Coastal Services Center is not the focus of this publication, we do want to keep you informed about projects and products on which we are working. One such project is laser beach mapping. Its innovative method of measuring shoreline change should interest anyone who lives or works along the coast.

I hope readers will find in these pages ideas they can use. Please answer our request for story ideas and feedback (see page 11) so that we can provide you with the news you desire. This publication is yours. Help us mold it to your needs.

Margaret A. Davidson

Guiding the conservation and wise management of coastal resources is a primary function of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

NOAA's Coastal Services Center (CSC) helps the nation's coastal management programs by providing them with services and information and by fostering the use of new or under-utilized technology.

On the cover: This sign marks the beginning of a private beach at Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts. A new program in Massachusetts is aimed at increasing public access through conflict mediation and free legal services. Photo courtesy Philip Greenspun, <http://photo.net/philg/>.

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CZM has Georgia on its mind

Could there have been a better setting than this?

There, on the same bluff where the founder of the colonial province landed, less than a month away from the 265th anniversary of that landing, the State of Georgia started another chapter in its history.

The ceremonial signing of the federal authorization of Georgia's coastal management program took place January 8, 1998 at the Savannah Hyatt hotel.

As the ink flowed, the placid Savannah River swept past, much as it must have when James Oglethorpe landed on that bluff on February 12, 1733.

Georgia's authorization was the third in the past 12 months. Texas and Ohio joined the ranks of federally authorized coastal programs in 1997.

Georgia is the 32nd state or territory to join the NOAA-sponsored federal Coastal Zone Management program.

Georgia's entrance into the program means there are now only three coastal states that do not participate: Illinois, Indiana, and Minnesota. The latter two, however, are working on a management plan.

For the "Peach State," authorization has been a long time coming. From 1974 to 1979 the state worked toward authorization only to pull out just before federal review.

This latest – and ultimately successful – effort began in October 1992 when Governor Zell Miller directed the state Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Resources Division to look into the possibility of developing a federally approved program.

More than five years later, it's happened. NOAA signed off on

the program in January of this year.

Membership in the federal program could mean upwards of \$1 million in federal matching funds for Georgia coastal programs in 1998 alone.

The state has included more than 6,000 square miles in 11 counties in its coastal management zone.

This territory includes one third of the tidal wetlands in the entire Eastern Seaboard.

On hand to celebrate the signing were federal, state, and local officials. Representing NOAA were Terry Garcia, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the NOAA deputy administrator; Capt. Evelyn Fields, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the National Ocean Service; and Jeff

Benoit, Director of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

Georgia's congressional delegation was well represented as U.S. Representative Jack Kingston was on hand, as were aides to U.S. Senator Max Cleland and U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell.

Representing the State of Georgia were Lonice Barrett, commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources; Hans Neuhauser, director of the Land Trust Service Center; and Becky Shortland, one of the members of the citizen Coastal Advisory Committee.

For more information about Georgia's Coastal Resources Division or its planned programs, call Duane Harris, Stuart Stevens, or Phil Flournoy at 912-264-7218.

AN INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GIS APPLICATIONS FOR COASTAL MANAGERS

A geographic information system (GIS) is an emerging computer resource with great potential for coastal managers. This bibliography is devoted to coastal applications of GIS technology. For coastal managers interested in using GIS in their programs, the 1,200-plus entries should prove invaluable.

NOAA Coastal Services Center

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/gisbib>